



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
SHEILA KUEHL  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Favor	Alondra Pedraza	I am writing in favor of Supervisor Hilda Solis's motion to support SB 731, also known as Sunsets, to help remove legal barriers for millions of Californians. LA County has taken great strides to move away from the punitive culture that the criminal legal system has imposed on predominantly people of color and this motion is in lockstep with fairness and justice. Many people are marginalized and oppressed by the system of mass incarceration, long after they have completed their sentence, paid their debts, and have lived crime-free for years. I personally have experienced and I stand in solidarity with organizations that work directly with system-impacted people across Los Angeles, and the state of CA, like A New Way of Life, Anti Recidivism Coalition, LAARP, ARC, and Homeboy Industries. I want to thank the LA County Board of Supervisors in advance for your support of Senator Maria Elena Durazo's bill, SB 731, to help millions of people excel and succeed in life by removing unethical and burdensome barriers
			Barbara Duey	I am a homeowner and a resident in Manhattan Beach for 26 years. What happened to the Bruce Family is unforgivable and needs to be corrected! I love the area I live in but it is a very white area and I do not think people of color are comfortable spending time here due to the overall attitude of people in this town. They are not "woke" - they don't understand the unbelievable privilege they have - they are too busy saying "I am not a racist" and unable to recognize the part they play in structural racism. Manhattan Beach is the perfect place to begin to reverse the centuries of racism in this country. It is the right thing to do. It is justice. It is fair and it is long overdue! It is time for everyone to stand up and do the right thing! Thank you!
			Caitlin Rose	DEFUND THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT ALREADY



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Favor	Heron Carrillo	<p>Me llamo Herón Carrillo Y soy residente de el condado.</p> <p>Hoy, en defensa de los derechos humanos, quiero expresar un profundo desacuerdo en estos mal llamados albergues en la ciudad de Long Beach y Pomona.</p> <p>Esto es trauma forzado a estos niños y sus familias, y a nosotros como comunidad entera.</p> <p>En casos como este, para quienes es realmente que ustedes trabajan? A donde se iran los mas de 700 dolares al dia que van a recibir por niño? Y porque no proveerlo a las familias directamente? Porque solo hay recursos cuando se trata de criminalizarnos? La mayoría de estos niños no vienen solos, vienen con un familiar como abuelos y tias, quienes pueden hacerse responsable de ellos.</p> <p>Ustedes han decidido una vez mas poner el dinero por encima del bienestar de la gente.</p> <p>Esto no es ayuda humanitaria, no es caridad, Bajo la ley internacional esto es un genocidio. Y no solo exigimos la reunificación de familias, transparencia y acceso a la comunidad para proteger y defender los derechos de los niños, pero también la abolición completamente de ICE (servicio y control de inmigración y aduanas.) estamos muy indignados, llenos de vergüenza, pero sobretodo, estamos artos de tanta injusticia!</p>



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Favor	Jose Z Calderon	My name is Jose Zapata Calderon. As president of the Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, I am here to support the efforts that are being made to welcome these unaccompanied minors to the Fairplex in Pomona. As an organization, we are committed to ensure that there is the highest quality of care for them and that everything is done to reunite them with their parents and relatives. Especially in this time of COVID and its possible spread among these young people, we want to ensure that these unaccompanied minors are not held for long periods of time. We also urge both state and federal funding support, not only for the physical and mental health services needed for the humane treatment of these unaccompanied minors, but also for the purposes of joining them with family members and for their right to receive the opportunity to fair and full consideration of their legal status. We fully agree with Supervisor Solis's statement that these "unaccompanied minors are escaping gang violence, poverty, persecution, and challenges that no young persons should endure" and we commit ourselves, not only to work on these short-term humane solutions but to work to change the conditions in the long-term - here and abroad -- which are forcing these unaccompanied minors to risk their lives to be here.
			Latia Suttle	Board of Supervisors please respond to the Demand Letter sent to each BOS a few months ago. It is attached here again.
			PHYLLIS M CHESTANG	SECOND WIND 501C3 AND PHYLLIS CHESTANG VOTE YES 4 EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY THESE AGENDA ITEMS NOTED ABOVE.
			Roy Humphreys	



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Favor	sophia cristo	<p>Goodmorning Board of Supervisors. My name is Sophia Cristo and I'm a youth Advocate with the anti-recidivism coalition. Thank you, Supervisor Hilda Solis for this motion.</p> <p>I'm here to speak in support of Senate Bill 731 and urge you all to do so as well. As a young woman who recently came home after being incarcerated in the juvenile and adult justice systems for 10 years, being able to seal my record is extremely important and in all honesty life-changing not just for me but for many of my ARC peers as well. Before my release, I was in constant fear of the impact that my record would have on me. I was always wondering: Would I be able to pursue a career? how many obstacles would I have to overcome because of this record? Would others in certain positions look down on me and no longer allow me the chance to prove myself due to my past? These questions torment me. Having the opportunity and chance to seal one's record makes a huge difference because of all the doors it opens and obstacles that it eliminates. With something like this in place, we won't have to live with the fear of our past or limit ourselves on where we can go or what we can attain and accomplish. It allows for a fresh start and gives people a chance to go in a different direction, rather than having to revert back to negative behavior because there's no other option. Give us that chance to be who we really are, and offer what we have, instead of limiting and labeling us because of our past. Allow us the chance to start off in the right direction and make the future we envision our best reality. I urge the board to support SB 731. Support me in my transition to a successful future. Thank you and have a great day.</p>
			William Elliott	<p>The Leona Valley Town Council would like to thank the BOS for hearing our CSD update. It has been a long long time getting to this point. The LVTC would like to thank the RP staff and Commission for their support of our CSDs. The BOS's approval would be muchly appreciate by the residents and the LVTC.</p> <p>Bill Elliott President Leona Valley Town Council</p>
			Yolie Anguiano	<p>Please support Care First, Jails Last!</p>



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			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Oppose	Daniel C Gaines	I'm writing to oppose the nomination of Dr. Drew Pinsky to the LAHSA board. As someone who works in homeless services, it is immensely troubling to me that someone who opposes Housing First and denies the huge body of research behind it should be put in a position of authority on the board; homelessness is the most serious crisis in Los Angeles County and we need real experts who believe in the science. Dr. Drew's record proves that he is an unreliable voice on homelessness, and hostile to research-based approaches that LA County needs to solve this crisis. I hope that the Supervisors will oppose the nomination of someone with Dr. Drew's track record of misrepresenting homelessness to a position of authority on homelessness policy. Please encourage Supervisor Barger to offer an alternative, qualified nominee for the board in his place. Thank you.
			Justin Serulneck	<p>Do not elect Dr. Drew Pinsky for positions related to homelessness and public health. If you elect him to the Board of LAHSA, I will vigorously oppose your future election and re-election efforts. He is not competent to serve in issue related to public health or homelessness as he believes, from his own website, that homelessness is a motivational issue, as opposed to a structural issue associated with the price of rent and lack of available housing.</p> <p>From the LA Times Editorial Board: <a href="https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-04-16/dr-drew-wrong-for-homeless-authority">latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-04-16/dr-drew-wrong-for-homeless-authority</a></p> <p>As linked from Dr. Drew Pinsky's website: <a href="https://californiaglobe.com/section-2/the-only-plan-to-end-homelessness/">californiaglobe.com/section-2/the-only-plan-to-end-homelessness/</a></p> <p>Drugs are not the issue as such causes would fail to explain the increase in homelessness from 2013 to its peak in 2019, to its present count after much attempting housing amelioration. You must oppose Dr. Drew Pinsky's nomination to the board of LAHSA or we will remember your vote and campaign to have you removed next election cycle. Such harsh writing is begged from the fact that Dr. Drew Pinsky was nominated in the first place.</p>



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Oppose	Lisa Atkinson	<p>Motion 21-0350. Homeless Housing is best placed outside of public recreation areas like the beach which are already being fully used. The Environmental Impact of this motion will produce excessive human waste, soap added directly into the already overtaxed Santa Monica Bay, not to mention increased health and safety issues.</p> <p>Our Recreation areas are essential for physical and mental health for people who come from all over the world. I personally heard five languages spoken on the bike path at Will Rogers State Beach yesterday.</p> <p>We have better places for this. Due to Covid, there is a wealth of already vacant stadiums, motels, office buildings, parking lots, classrooms, and other facilities that are empty and far better suited environmentally.</p> <p>Please look for land with less environmental, physical, safety and mental health impact.</p> <p>We need better solutions to this horrible problem in our county.</p>
			Lucero A Gutierrez	<p>I strongly oppose the "shelters" opening in Long Beach and Pomona for unaccompanied minor refugees. No matter how you frame it, these centers are prisons for children. No child belong locked up. These types of centers also have a long history of abuse done by the employees. These children are at risk of being abused!</p> <p>I urge that these centers be closed down immediately and that the community have access to the minors to ensure that they are not being abused by the employees.</p>



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Oppose	Teri Simpson	Dear Supervisor Kuehl, I am writing to OPPOSE using Beaches and Parks as sites for new homeless encampments, specifically Will Rogers Beach, Dockweiler Beach, and Fisherman's Village at Marina del Rey. Our community has heard that you are in favor of converting parking lots at these locations, as proposed by Councilmember Bonin. My reasons for opposing this are many, but to name a few: Will Rogers is on the very busy PCH, and there is just one traffic-lighted crosswalk leading to the beach. Access to the beach is critical for the multitudes of Angelinos (and tourists) who come to relax and enjoys California's crown jewel - the beach. By the way, this weekend, the WR parking lot was filled almost to capacity (in April!). There is little other access to the beach as you head north, where homes block public access. If Venice beach is the benchmark for beach housing for homeless individuals, then this would be a disaster to the environment and public access. As an alternative, I suggest using the HHH and H money to renovate existing buildings that could accommodate people in a much more humane manner, with bathrooms, A/C, and enough space to allow for social services to help them. There would be access for respectable transition housing, resources for supportive living, and mental health and addiction services for people who need that. Shuffling people in tents and shipping containers from one area to the next is not at all humane. Neither is it safe on such a busy roadway. There are over 1,000 postings on the LA City site opposing this, too. I do hope that you will be aware of how you constituents feel about this important issue. Thank you very much for your consideration. Sincerely, Teri Simpson
		Other	Alex Sizemore-Smale	I'm writing to oppose Dr. Drews nomination to the LAHSA Board. This is disgraceful and a total joke. This man makes up fake statistics about homelessness and broadcasts them to thousands. He's a joke and has no knowledge or expertise on homelessness. Moreover, he's willfully ignorant and spreads false information. Please appoint someone qualified.
			Amanda E Rykoff	
			Amy She	Supervisor Kathryn Barger, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? How in the world are you appointing a TV "doctor" who has no experience with any homeless issues, to the LA Homeless Services Authority board. Are we just appointing ANYONE at this point? My cat needs a job, how about you appoint him instead? My cat and "Dr" Drew are both qualified at the same level in regards to helping the homeless - which is ZERO! It's painfully obvious you do not care about the homeless and the issue of homelessness in LA County. It's insulting & disgusting that you've made this choice. I demand that you revoke your appointment and find someone (there are PLENTY of people who have been doing the work for AGES) that is actually QUALIFIED for the job, not some tv grifter who had no experience with client-informed homeless services. SHAME ON YOU!!!



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Other	Christopher Chakravarti	<p>I am a Los Angeles County resident extremely concerned about the launching of migrant children's facilities approved for the cities of Pomona and Long Beach, which will detain up to 3,500 children. These centers should not even exist, as migrant children should be allowed to seek asylum together with their families in accordance with International Law. The current federal policy under Title 42, created by Trump and continued by Biden, violates basic human rights and is largely responsible for the "unaccompanied" migrant children crisis we are currently facing. In fact, most children are not unaccompanied, but are in effect separated from their families when their accompanying family members are turned away at the border despite having the right to seek asylum, as they are escaping extreme situations of violence, poverty and persecution. Detaining children only exacerbates their trauma and leaves emotional scars that no human being deserves. Furthermore, centers of this kind have a horrific history and even as currently proposed appear to be highly dubious. Even as reports of child abuse including sexual abuse in similar facilities in the US emerge, it has come to my attention that background checks are being waived for personnel working with the children. This is extremely alarming, to say the least. As such, at the very least it is imperative that the centers in LA county to have full transparency regarding their policies as well as budgets, and full access for social workers, medical and legal workers supporting the children, as well as community advocacy organizations and press, in order to ensure that rights and services to children are 100% guaranteed and fully subject to community accountability. I urge you to create the necessary mechanisms to guarantee these conditions while the centers function on a temporary "emergency" basis, and that you commit to facilitating an efficient and rapid reunification process which will allow them to be successfully closed again as soon as possible. Meanwhile, I also ask that you take a stand against Title 42 which has created this untenable, unnecessary and frankly inhumane situation to begin with, and begin to actually divest from carceral approaches to immigration that local governments like this one are proving to be complicit in, rather than simply rebranding with a friendlier image the same morally bankrupt systems that have only caused pain and suffering to our communities and to those who deserve to be a part of and contribute to them. Please let's show that Los Angeles, one of the nation's most diverse, inclusive and vibrant cities, can do better.</p>





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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Other	Denice Grant	This is in reference to Tinhorn Flats in Burbank. One owner has been harassed and arrested three times for being open when the city wanted him to be shut down per illegal guidelines. A chain link fence was erected around the building which he owns. The city is preventing the owners from accessing a building that they own and still pay insurance and utilities on. The owner and attorneys from both sides have expressed interest in negotiating a solution as have Burbank city council members EXCEPT Konstantin Anthony. The mayor also expressed interest, but now no one will even communicate with the owners. Its time to let them resume operations like all other restaurants. This is some kind of weird grudge on Anthony's part.
			Goat Puppet	Open up meetings to in person testimony. This format sucks!
			Ivette Xochiyotl	
			Ivette Xochiyotl	<p>Me llamo Ivette Xochiyotl Y soy defensora de los derechos de pacientes, de salud mental, y de derechos humanos y civiles.</p> <p>-Así que hoy, en defensa de los derechos humanos, quiero expresar un profundo desacuerdo en estos mal llamados albergues en la ciudad de Long Beach y Pomona.</p> <p>Esto es trauma forzado a estos niños y sus familias, y a nosotros como comunidad entera.</p> <p>El poder que hoy tienen ustedes reside en la gente para quienes ustedes trabajan.</p> <p>En casos como este, para quienes es realmente que trabajando ?</p> <p>A donde se iran los mas de 700 dolares al dia que van a recibir por niño? Y porque no proveerlo a las familias directamente.</p> <p>Porque solo hay recursos cuando se trata de criminalizarnos.</p> <p>La mayoría de estos niños no vienen solos, vienen con un familiar como abuelos y tias, quienes pueden hacerse responsable de ellos.</p> <p>Ustedes han decidido una vez mas poner el dinero por encima del bienestar de la gente.</p> <p>-Esto no es ayuda humanitaria, no es caridad, Bajo la ley internacional esto es un genocidio.</p> <p>Y no solo exigimos la reunificación de familias, transparencia y acceso a la comunidad para proteger y defender los derechos de los niños, pero también la abolición completamente de ICE (servicio y control de inmigración y aduanas.)</p> <p>estamos muy indignados, llenos de vergüenza, pero sobretodo, estamos artos de tanta injusticia!</p>

As of: 4/20/2021 3:56:47 PM



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Other	jarrett hill	
			julie D Martinez	Fully Fund Measure J! The Board of Supervisors must reassess the CEOs current analysis and direct the Office of the CEO to make the full funding allocation for Measure J based on the entire Net County Cost and the language of the law. The CEO has estimated that the full 10% allocation for Measure J funds would only be \$300M when fully phased in after 3 years, and only \$100 million for this year. We believe that the analysis that led to this number is not only flawed but represents an interpretation of the measure that is not legally or financially sound.
			Marilyn P Gladle	1.The lawsuit against TINHORN FLATS (BarFly,Inc) is a Waste of taxpayer dollars that the 10 million citizens of LA County provide to keep this county running. Taxpayer dollars in the form of taxes are not being collected due to the closure of businesses. The county has lost a large amount of taxpayer dollars by keeping Tinhorn Flats and other businesses restricted in their ability to provide services. 2. Keeping TinHorn Flats closed is punitive, unconstitutional, and wrong. It appears the County of Los Angeles and the City of Burbank are trying to steal the property from a family that has owned this business for 50 years. 3. I waited on the telephone for 1 1/2 hours today to be able to make a public comment according to the Ralph M Brown Act. The BOS has violated the Brown Act. Not fair, not right, not legal.
			Marilyn P Gladle	I waited 1.5 hours on the telephone to comment today and I was not given the opportunity. This is a clear violation of the Ralph M Brown Act which gives me a citizen an opportunity to comment and address the board which I was not allowed to do today - April 20, 2021.
			Pat Tubbs	

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
Public Comment		Other	Sean Carpenter	<p>Hello Board Members - I would like to publicly oppose the nomination of Dr Drew to the LA Homeless Commission. As a mental health professional working with clients experiencing homelessness in the City of West Hollywood, I know firsthand the importance of having leadership that reflects the lived experience of homelessness, rather than nominating a straight, white man who has no experience struggling with housing. Appointments ought to also consider race, gender, sexual orientation and class as these identifiers are inextricably linked to the epidemic of homelessness, with many folks experiencing homeless being POC and LGBTQ+ populations. Systemic oppression of POC communities in particular are direct causes for the mental health and substance use issues we often see in populations experiencing homelessness, and one way this board can make a meaningful step toward racial equity is by nominating candidates who are POC and/or LGBTQ+ that have experienced homelessness in the past. This direct experience is invaluable toward finding solutions, outside of listening to those experiencing these challenges as part of the way we form solutions going forward.</p> <p>Dr Drew has openly advocated for addressing mental health and substance use first rather than a housing first approach. As a mental health and homeless outreach professional, I can tell you that it is next to impossible to stabilize ones mental health without stable housing first. The stresses of being unhoused, exposed to the elements, harassed by law enforcement and all the other stressors and challenges associated with homelessness make it impossible to stabilize both mental health and substance use without first having secure, stable and permanent housing. For this reason, I oppose Dr Drew's nomination and advocate for a candidate with the lived experience being homeless as well as considering the importance of race, gender, class and sexual orientation as part of your process for selecting a nominees. Thanks you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Warm regards, Sean Carpenter, MA, AMFT (they/them pronouns)</p>
			Tanya Kane-Parry	transparency and community access to the "unaccompanied minors" REFUGEES who will be housed in the "shelters" in LA county (Long Beach & Pomona).
			Tieira Ryder	Housing, housing, and more housing is necessary, affordable only! Immediately! We also need a medicare4ALL system along with larger healthcare & rehabilitation facilities.
		Item Total	32	
Grand Total			32	



February 2, 2021

**Bobby D. Cagle, Director at  
Department of Children and  
Family Services**

**Dr. Barbara Ferrer,  
California Department of  
Public Health**

**Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D.,  
PH.D. Director  
Los Angeles County  
Department of Mental  
Health**

**State Senator Bob  
Archuleta**

**Assemblymember Reggie  
Jones-Sawyer**

**Mayor Eric Garcetti**

**Elaine M. Howle, California  
State Auditor**

**Eric C. Taylor, Presiding  
Judge Los Angeles County  
Superior Court**

**George Gascon, Los  
Angeles County District  
Attorney**

gv

**Sachi A. Hamai, Chief  
Executive Officer of Los  
Angeles County**

**Judicial Council**

**Los Angeles County Board  
of Supervisors:  
Hilda L. Solis  
Holly J. Mitchell  
Sheila Kuehl  
Janice Hahn  
Kathryn Barger**

**LA City Council Member:  
Mark Ridley-Thomas**

**Board of Police  
Commissioners:  
Eileen Decker, President  
William Briggs, Vice  
President  
Dale Bonner,  
Commissioner  
Steve Soboroff,  
Commissioner**

**Maria Lou Calanche,  
Commissioner**

**Dr. Vito Imbasciani,  
Secretary of CA  
Department of Veterans  
Affairs**

**CA Department of  
Education:  
Tony Thurmond, State  
Superintendent of Public  
Instruction  
Sarah Neville-Morgan,  
Deputy Superintendent for  
Teaching and Learning  
Support Branch**

**LAUSD Board of  
Education:  
Tanya Ortiz Franklin  
Monica Garcia  
George McKenna  
Scott Schmerelson  
Nick Melvoin  
Jackie Goldberg  
Kelly Gonez**

**RE: Reimagining the Health and Safety of Children and Families**

Dear Los Angeles County and California State Leadership,

We need to reimagine how we ensure the health and safety of children and families, especially in Black, Brown and Indigenous communities because the health and safety of children and families continue to be at risk in California (CA). The Department of Children Family Services (DCFS), Family Court, and Children's Court were established to safeguard the health and safety of children and families but are instead exacerbating them and costing CA taxpayers billions of dollars.

**Executive Summary:**

Social workers are allowed to not return calls, not ensure visitations are taking place, and not ensure family reunification is happening. Police officers are ignoring domestic violence and child abuse. Judges are ignoring domestic violence evidence in courtrooms, leaving children in abusive situations, and not protecting women and children. The aforementioned professionals do not receive sufficient education or training on domestic abuse which has led to preventable violence and death. Adequate education and training requirements could reduce the harm and trauma that children and families are experiencing throughout Los Angeles County.

The CA State Auditors have identified these issues within DCFS and the Commission of Judicial Performance, yet the commission is still allowing judges to go rogue and has not implemented the state auditors recommendations. Some recommendations are as simple as creating a digital system to file complaints against these judges.

We want to reimagine child safety and the court systems because new research shows that the toxic stress to California costs \$112 billion annually. These costs are felt deeply in the Black, Brown and Indigenous communities as well as contributes to a pipeline that places Black, Brown and Indigenous youth in jails and prisons. We recognize that strides have been made in the recent years to improve child protection but many children are still losing their lives. We are here to help by sharing our lived experiences so that one day no child will loose their life due to domestic violence, child abuse or torture in Los Angeles County. We believe that this can be attained if you allow our lived experiences to shape future legislation and policy. We invite you to join us in reimagining child safety in Los Angeles County so that no child is unnecessarily harmed due to the inadequacy of child well-being services.

We are Community Coalition members who have worked in conjunction with the organization to develop a comprehensive demand letter. Our solution to reimagining child safety is to create and establish a DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court reform implementation team. Other specific solutions are outlined in the **table** below:

Priority Demands
Eyes in the Court - implement court watch to serve as accountability over court proceedings
Body Cameras for Social Workers - Reintroduce AB 336 (audio & video recordings)
Reunifying families with no criminal convictions related to the DCFS/Family Court Case - stop criminalizing families without criminal convictions. Social workers should be focused on healing and safely reunifying families.
COVID-19: (Un)supervised visits are not taking place and exacerbated economic impact on system-impacted families

DCFS Equity Office needs real community involvement
(1) DCFS, Family Court, Children's Court Implementation Team ( <b>DFC Implementation Team</b> ) and (2) DCFS, Family Court, Children's Court Community/Civilian Oversight Committee ( <b>DFC COC</b> ) w/ subpoena power and contempt power
Ombudsman/Ombudsperson for parents, not just for children
Refund for economic impact (i.e. court delays)
Create a <b>court specific to military veterans and their families</b> that do not have a criminal charge but have a disability due to their military service. Those disabilities can include, but are not limited to, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Sleep Apnea. Military veteran's court-involvement should be considered given that the military veteran suicide rate is 20 to 22 per day.
<b>Allocate funding for additional resources for veterans to alleviate various court costs OR exempt VA compensation from being classified as income</b> , as this classification disqualifies them from services such as legal and housing assistance.
<b>Change and add the Family Reunification requirements</b> in Children's Court and Family Court, respectively, to align with each other and other systems to create a Family Reunification requirement that is reasonably speedy, streamlined, and a non-duplicative reunification process.
<i>Amend the requirement of the protections given by the <b>Indian Welfare Act</b> to include people listed on the <a href="#">Indian Census Rolls (1880-1930)</a> or people that have a <a href="#">Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood</a>.</i>

### **Context:**

In 2020 the California Surgeon General, CEO of the Center for Youth Wellness, and pediatrician Dr. Nadine Burke Harris shared [new research](#) from the Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation (PIRE) that identifies the health-related costs of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and costs of toxic stress to California: \$112.5 billion annually. This estimate is disaggregated into direct ACEs-related health care expenditures totaling \$10.5 billion annually, with an additional \$102 billion in the cost of disease burden, including premature death and years of productive life lost to disability. [ACEs](#) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood ages 0-17. For example, experiencing violence, abuse, neglect, witnessing violence in the home or community, and/or having a family member attempt or die by suicide. Also included are aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding caused by a household with substance misuse, mental health problems, parental separation or household members being in jail or prison. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood and can negatively impact education and job opportunities.

According to the [CA Health Report](#), Dr. Harris also highlighted that “Many of the kids who end up in the juvenile justice system, the vast majority of them have been exposed to high doses of adversity.” In this same report, Lenore Anderson, executive director of Californians for Safety and Justice, also stated that “Nationwide, young people of color have far higher incarceration rates than their white counterparts — [B]lack youth are 4.6 times more likely to be incarcerated, Native Americans are 3.3 times more likely, and Latino youth are 1.7 times more likely...The increased understanding of the connection between childhood adversity and criminal justice offers an opportunity for prevention.” We view these correlations as a serious public health crisis that Covid-19 has worsened.

#### **Testimonials:**

In Los Angeles County, many residents and families have direct experiences with the inefficiencies in the DCFS, Family Court, Children's Court. For example, Ana Estevez, the grieving mother of [5-year-old Aramazd Andressian Jr., "Piqui" who was killed by his father](#), lashed out at Los Angeles county social workers involved in her Family Law Court case, saying she partially blames the DCFS and the Family Law Court system for her child's death. Ana Estevez who is an Army veteran requested a domestic violence restraining order from a Family Court judge and her request was denied. In 2016 Ana Estevez also pleaded with the DCFS for protection. One DCFS social worker wrote that the mother (Ana Estevez) is more difficult than the father to deal with. Piqui was murdered by his father on April 21, 2017. Piqui was the 592nd child out of [now 746 children murdered by a parent](#) who had a case in Family Court within the United States.

Another example of the failures of these systems is the [Gabriel Fernandez case](#) reveals how DCFS and law enforcement were called to the scene multiple times before Gabriel's death — and no action was taken. At one point social workers even ordered Gabriel to stop lying, allowing his abusers to continue the torture until the horrific end. These actions at the hands of these systems are completely unacceptable and we need critical reforms now.

#### **Veterans:**

Navigating the inefficient and complex DCFS, Family Court, Children's Court systems is unnecessarily traumatizing to families. These systems are especially burdensome on military veterans who already have a [national suicide rate of approximately 22 per day](#). A veterans suicide taskforce or working group composed of veterans needs to be established to ease veteran's navigation of these systems.

#### **Safety and Health of Children and Families:**

Many social workers, judges, and law enforcement officials are not adequately ensuring the health and safety of all children. Police and judges ignore domestic abuse that occurs in front or inside of their police stations and do not provide real police reports

when incidents are reported to them. In 2019, a [mother was shot and killed in front of the Hawthorne Police Station](#) during a child custody exchange. Though DCFS continues to receive millions of dollars and law enforcement budgets continue to swell, many of the children and parents dealing with these systems are being treated unfairly, overlooked, and are not receiving justice.

#### **Conclusion/Demands:**

Given the urgency of this situation, we are calling on the **Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, CA State Senate and Assembly, Judicial Council, DCFS, Los Angeles Superior Court, CA State Auditor, Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles County Child Support Services, CA Private Schools, LAUSD/CA Department of Education, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles City Mayor, and the Police Commission** to act immediately and protect the lives of biological families separated within our borders and impacted by the Los Angeles County and CA State injustice systems. Those impacted by this separation do not include just the individuals who have cases in DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court but their family members and communities as well.

The existing infrastructure for DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court does not receive community oversight or input. In order to achieve effective reform we urge the aforementioned stakeholders to adopt the following demands and work collaboratively amongst each other and the community in the implementation of said demands. Although all of the demands are equally important, we want to stress the demands calling for the inclusion of people with DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court lived experience in the reform process.

All the demands should be implemented within one year (by July 2021), considering the rate of child development and the years lost as a result of the bureaucratic processes. For those demands that call for a retrospective assessment, a time window of consideration should be 15 years (2005-2020).

Establish a DCFS, Family Court, Children's Court Implementation Team (**DFC Implementation Team**) and a DCFS, Family Court, Children's Court Community/Civilian Oversight Committee (**DFC COC**) that operates independent of DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court. This DFC Implementation Team will provide an implementation plan for the demands and the DFC COC will provide oversight of the demands. Both the DFC Implementation Team and the DFC COC should be granted subpoena power over DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court.

See below for a list of demands that apply to varying local and state jurisdictions.

#### **Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

##### **1. Veterans**



- a. **Create a veterans information center** in the Los Angeles Superior Court, especially in DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court to help veterans navigate the court system and ensure all judges in Family Court and Children's Court and DCFS employees know of and recommend the UCLA Veterans Family Wellness Center.
- b. **Create an identification process for military veterans who have cases** in DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court.
- c. **Appoint military veteran liaisons for veterans who have cases** in DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court.
  - i. Veterans who do not have criminal cases need to receive wraparound services
- d. **Create a local Los Angeles Task Force/Investigative Team for military veteran families** that will investigate multiple issues such as, but not limited to,
  - i. cases of families that have been separated by DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court and the parents do not have criminal charges;
  - ii. cases of families not separated by a court order, but the case shows custody violations by Parent A preventing Parent B from accessing their child. These custody violations have been presented in Family and Children's Court yet the courts have not acted upon the multiple violations; and
  - iii. cases involving a parent diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or other military-related injuries can have diagnoses used against them in court and prevent them from accessing their child.

This Task Force will work collaboratively with its State Task Force counterpart.<sup>1</sup>

2. **Create a Task Force/Investigative Teams for parents** who are undocumented whom have Deportation/Immigrations cases and DCFS cases who are unable to be reunified.
3. **Parents in Partnership services** for families involved in Children's Court and DCFS needs to be broadened to Family Court to increase awareness and be consistently provided in and out of DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court. Parents in Partnership will facilitate family preservation and reunification and identify family needs. Parents in Partnership should continue to be composed of people with DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court lived-experience.

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<sup>1</sup> CA State Senate & Assembly 11

## California State Senate & Assembly

1. **Implement the California State Auditor Recommendations for DCFS** from the [2019 DCFS Audit](#).
  - a. Implement the remaining 4 recommendations that are partially implemented, [last reported on in November 2019](#)
  - b. Work with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to encourage local community participation
2. **Implement the California State Auditor Recommendations for the Commission on Judicial Performance** from the [2019 Commission on Judicial Performance \(CJP\) Audit](#).
  - a. Implement the remaining 14 out of 15 recommendations that are partially implemented or pending, [last reported on in April 2019](#).
  - b. [AB 1842](#) was introduced for the community to be able to electronically report judicial misconduct to the Commission on Judicial Performance. This legislation needs to be expedited because a January 1, 2022 implementation date is not expeditious and children and families are presently being impacted by this misconduct.
3. **Reintroduce [AB 336](#)** to give parents and guardians the right and protection to video and audio record CA social workers. Parents also need the ability to audio/video record the DCFS Social Workers when there is an investigation. If some law enforcement officers are mandated to record using body cameras, then social workers should be mandated to record, and parents and guardians should have the right to record as well.
4. **Amend [SB 907](#) or introduce a new bill to include military veterans to receive assistance from the Family Advocacy Program within DCFS.** SB 907 does not include military veterans and only aims to assist active duty military.
5. **Create a CA State Task Force to investigate Children's Court cases that do not have [JV-190](#) forms signed, which waives the parents or guardians rights.** Children's Court is violating parent's and guardian's rights by not reviewing the JV-190 form in Court with the parent and guardian or obtaining a legal signature on the JV-190 form, denying parents and guardians due process. DCFS and Children's Court are taking children away illegally without due process and without parents signing a JV-190 form, knowing that "A parent's interest in custody of her children is a liberty interest which has received considerable constitutional protection; a parent who is deprived of custody of his or her child, even though temporarily, suffers thereby grievous loss and such loss deserves

extensive due process protection. *In the Interest of Cooper*, 621 P 2d 437; 5 Kansas App Div 2d 584, (1980).” Work in collaboration with the local Task Force that will also investigate Children’s Court cases that do not have a signed JV-190 form.<sup>2</sup>

6. **Amend the time frame on the [Adoption and Safe Families Act](#).** The Adoption and Safe Families Act mandates CA to file for termination of parental rights (TPR) if a child has been in foster care for a minimum of 15 months. However, terminating parental rights because a child is in foster care for 15 months can be an unreasonable punishment on the child and parent. For example, [in 2014 adults in CA were sentenced to a mean time of 3.3 years in prison for non-violent offenses](#). If their child was placed in foster care, then their parental rights would have been terminated, a consequence that disproportionately outweighs any non-violent crime for which a parent would receive a greater than 15 month jail or prison sentence.
7. **Stop all fast track adoption policies.** The criteria for fast-track adoption eligibility are too wide, such as a child being in foster care for 15 months as stated above. In practice, the policy does not inform the parent of the fast-track adoption until parental rights have been terminated and the adoption of the child is finalized.
8. **Notify biological parents about adoptions mandatory before and after adoptions take place.** Parents need to be served with paperwork before a parental rights termination request can be heard. Adoptions are finalized without a parent being notified. Parental termination or adoption should not take place without the parent being notified.
9. **In cases of domestic violence, Family and Children’s Court should not ignore protective orders by giving custody or visitation to the abuser.** When there is evidence of domestic violence, judges or commissioners need not ignore or terminate the protective order. DCFS is often used as a weapon by the abuser against their victims which further harms children when they are removed and placed in the home of an abuser.
10. **Request an Audit of the [Child Abduction Unit](#).** Children have been removed from safe, protective parents by this Child Abduction Unit without being notified. Some of these children have disabilities and are taken from homes without securing their medication. Some children are removed from one state and taken to another without contacting the “alleged child abductor,” in other words the parent who the child was taken from and has served as the primary caregiver.

**Commented [1]:** This link is currently discontinued because federal legislation (<https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/congress/house-bills/7976/text?r=1&s=1>) was passed to temporarily pause the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) in the COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://youthrightsjustice.org/the-adoption-and-safe-families-act-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

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<sup>2</sup> Los Angeles Superior Court 7

Some of these parents have existing protective or restraining orders against the other parent. The complaint process for this Unit is a conflict of interest because it is internal. An Office of Inspector General needs to be instituted to impartially review complaints made against the Unit.<sup>3</sup>

11. **Create a CA State Task Force for military veterans, without criminal charges, that have been separated from their children.** For example, some military veterans have completed classes with the Veterans Administration and/or the Veterans Family Wellness Center but have been denied reunification on the false grounds that the military veteran did not complete the class. This Task Force will work collaboratively with its Local Task Force counterpart.<sup>4</sup>
12. **Create a Task Force separate from the Commission on Judicial Performance, or grant the Commission on Judicial Performance with the legal bandwidth, to investigate judges who are moved around multiple times in Family Court,** as this complicates the record and, in some cases, covers up judicial misconduct and illegal activity.
13. **Allocate funding for additional resources for veterans to alleviate various court costs OR exempt VA compensation from being classified as income, as this classification disqualifies them from services such as legal and housing assistance.** Military veterans receive VA compensation for injuries they incurred during their military service. Therefore, VA compensation is not income but rather a debt paid back to the military veteran for the harm inflicted upon them during their service. There are unemployed veterans who sustain themselves with their VA compensation but are forced to use it to pay exorbitant court costs, such as court fees, attorney fees, transcripts, child visitation monitors, experts and evaluations. These costs consume an unreasonable percentage of a military veteran's VA compensation.
14. **Amend the requirement of the protections given by the Indian Welfare Act** to include people listed on the [Indian Census Rolls \(1880-1930\)](#) or people that have a [Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood](#). Do not deny American Indian families protection under the Indian Welfare Act simply because they do not hold a current tribal membership. If presence on the Indian Census Rolls or the Certificate cannot be confirmed, Family and Children's Court are responsible for exhausting all indicators of whether someone is of Native American ancestry, such as using Genealogy websites, Family Oral History, or DNA testing.

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<sup>3</sup> CA State Auditor 1

<sup>4</sup> Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 1(D)

## Judicial Council

1. **Implement the California State Auditor Recommendations for the Commission on Judicial Performance** from the [2019 Commission on Judicial Performance \(CJP\) Audit](#).
  - a. Implement the remaining 14 out of 15 recommendations that are partially implemented or pending, [last reported on in April 2019](#).
  - b. [AB 1842](#) was introduced to electronically report judicial misconduct to the Commission on Judicial Performance. This legislation needs to be expedited because a January 1, 2022 implementation date is not expeditious and children and families are presently being impacted by this misconduct.
2. **Mandate increased domestic abuse/violence and mental health training beyond two weeks for judges**, especially those overseeing cases with restraining/protective orders, in Family Court and Children's Court. For example, there are judges that are trained as real estate lawyers but as judges are now overseeing cases in Family Law and therefore lack the education and experience needed to make an informed decision.
3. **Create an identification process for military veterans who have cases** in DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court.
4. **Provide military veteran liaisons for veterans who have cases** in DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court.
  - a. *Veterans need to receive wraparound services who do not have criminal cases*
5. **Create a court specific to military veterans and their families that do not have a criminal charge** but have a disability due to their military service. Those disabilities can include, but are not limited to, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Sleep Apnea. The existing Veteran's Court does not provide wraparound services to veterans with disabilities unless they have criminal charges. For example, a veteran, who is not eligible for the Veteran's Court because they do not have a criminal charge, can become ensnared in the Family Court system for years because Family Court does not offer the wraparound services as the Veteran's Court.
6. **Amend the requirement of the protections given by the Indian Welfare Act** to include people listed on the [Indian Census Rolls \(1880-1930\)](#) or people that have a [Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood](#). Do not deny

American Indian families protection under the Indian Welfare Act simply because they do not hold a current tribal membership. If presence on the Indian Census Rolls or the Certificate cannot be confirmed, Family and Children's Court are responsible for exhausting all indicators of whether someone is of Native American ancestry, such as using Genealogy websites, Family Oral History, or DNA testing.

### Department of Children and Family Services

1. ***Return children who were wrongfully separated from their biological families.*** These children are separated from their families under the false pretense that the children suffered abuse and/or neglect, but the parent or guardian has no criminal charges, convictions, and had their due process rights breached. Social workers' legal bandwidth to remove children from their families is too broad; however, there is an imbalance in when social workers decide to separate children from their families. For example, there are abusive family situations in which a mandated reporter urges the removal of a child, but the child is not removed. Conversely, there are safe family situations in which the child is removed unnecessarily, inflicting preventable harm and trauma to the child and families.
2. ***Completely remove the [Professional Child Visitation Monitor requirement of parents without a criminal charge or conviction](#).*** Supervised or monitored visits can cost [\\$800 to \\$1,200](#) per month and are paid to an independent contractor that offers their monitoring services through the Family Court. Instead, the Family Court needs to either be given the funding to offer these monitoring services at a lower cost or on a sliding scale, or at no cost, as does DCFS through Children's Court. Charging \$800 to \$1,200 is an unreasonable cost that most families cannot afford. Additionally, parents who allegedly display "abusive behavior" do not need to receive the Professional Child Visitation Monitor requirement, this requirement should only be used when abuse has been substantiated by trial, not a social worker. The social welfare culture is intrinsically biased against parents. This social welfare culture needs to stop criminalizing parents without evidence. Parents should have the right and support in accessing a secondary legal opinion.
3. ***Create a proposition to establish a process for family reunification that undoes the speedy adoptions permitted under the [Adoption and Safe Families Act](#).***
4. ***The [Reunification Therapy requirement](#) needs to have a solid plan and costs need to be waived or reduced. Family Court requires high-cost***

*Reunification Therapy, some sessions amounting to [\\$300 and they are held once a week totalling to \\$1,200 per month](#). The Reunification Therapy is ill-implemented and unnecessarily prolonged contributing to a never-ending cycle of therapy that does not reunify families.*

5. ***Require that DCFS social workers communicate with formerly incarcerated parents immediately upon the parents release.*** Social workers are not contacting parents upon their release from incarceration or responding to their phone calls. This lack of communication impedes the parent from visiting their children, making it look like the parent is not involved or concerned. Consequently, this misperception of the parent has led to parents losing parental rights.
6. **Work with Local and CA State TaskForce for military veterans.**
7. ***Include mandatory implicit bias training for social workers*** to address the lack of cultural competency and create awareness of how race, class, gender, religion/faith and sexual orientation shape family structures, dynamics, and needs in order to understand and effectively work with all family structures, dynamics, and needs; not just White American structures. The overpathologization of families involved needs to be de incentivized. Trainings need to include data on these demographics to understand the disparities. Although [“cultural competency” is allegedly addressed in the hiring process](#), it is insufficient because social workers are still exercising cultural incompetency. Cultural competency can be addressed in a creative low-cost way. During the hiring process, the cultural competency training needs to be refined to include an assessment which gauges a person’s cultural competency through a tiered system. This cultural competency assessment and training should be developed by the DFC Implementation Team and should incorporate [critical race theory](#). The competency level should determine whether a candidate is qualified for the social worker trainee position. Should the candidate not meet the ideal tiered level of cultural competency, they can receive additional training and reapply.
8. ***[Cultural Broker Program](#), a partnership between DCFS and African American families to increase community input, should be at all of the DCFS offices***, the Program needs to be widely promoted, parents should be automatically accepted into Program upon request, and the Program needs to be made accessible to all families who request this service independent of the plan the family is already assigned to (i.e Family Reunification Program vs Family Maintenance Program), which families appear to be arbitrarily placed in. Cultural Broker Program volunteers should be paid because the [hours and goals are onerous](#) and the average community member cannot afford to provide unpaid labor.

9. ***The educational requirements of DCFS social worker trainees need to be specified. Reevaluate the scope of an entry-level social worker because currently it is too wide.*** As stated in an entry level [social worker trainee application](#), a “bachelor’s degree from an accredited college with a major in psychology, sociology, social work, child development, or a related human services field” is required. The list of “human services field” is too broad of an educational requirement and a recent graduate with this degree should not be able to jump into a social worker capacity with a wide scope of job responsibilities that irreversibly impact families. A recent graduate with a bachelor’s degree with no training can “[prepare\[\] court reports for hearings; file\[\] petitions](#)” contributing to unnecessary family separations. For example a social worker trainee after two months on the job had the legal job authority to remove a child from their home. This removal from an inexperienced social worker trainee can have long-lasting detrimental effects on the child and family. Therefore, a social worker trainee should not have the legal job authority to determine the removal of a child.
10. ***The retaliation culture among social workers is hostile and stifling and needs to be eliminated immediately.*** A complaint process for social workers who are wrongfully terminated does not exist so only anecdotal evidence revealing the retaliation culture can be cited. Therefore, a complaint process needs to be created for disciplining and terminating LA County employees.
11. ***Licenses should be required of social workers*** to give community members the ability to file legitimate complaints against them in cases of gross misconduct and challenge the social worker’s license, similar to being able to file a complaint against a doctor to the Medical Board of CA. When a complaint is filed, families should have the option to be assigned to a different social worker in a separate office to avoid a conflict of interest. A database of social workers with their experiential and professional profiles should be required of each DCFS office and made available to the public.
12. ***Recruit former foster care youth in the hiring process for social workers*** because candidates with lived experience in foster care are filtered out due to systemic barriers. For example, [less than 3% of foster care youth receive a degree from a 4-year college](#). Therefore, instead of creating additional barriers for former foster care youth, we should create an incentive to recruit DCFS, Family Court, and/or Children’s Court impacted youth, that fully funds their higher education and license fees, to work as social workers. Eligibility for funding should not be restrictive. The FCD Implementation Team will determine the details of the eligibility for the funds.

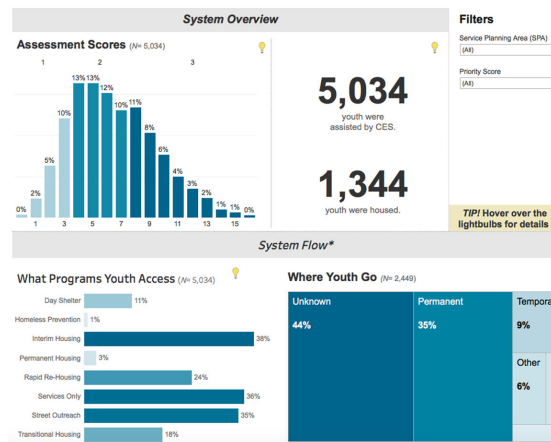


13. ***There needs to be a Loan Forgiveness Incentive for youth and adults impacted by DCFS, Family Court, and/or Children's Court.*** The FCD Implementation Team will be required to determine eligibility and terms for this specific program. The Loan Forgiveness program will be similar to the Loan Forgiveness Programs that the military offers to college graduates and future college graduates.

14. ***Provide housing assistance and other services for people impacted by DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court cases. Critically assess existing housing programs and address their deficiencies.***

#### **Transitional housing for youth**

The [Coordinated Entry System](#) meets every two weeks per Service Planning Area (SPA) to discuss the state of homelessness. In these meetings, the [existing housing options for foster care youth](#) have been shown to be insufficient: [only 1,344 out of the 5,034 youth served by CES are housed and the outcome of 44% of youth is unknown](#). The unknown outcome of 44% of youth is unacceptable given the rate of homelessness, the statistics of [missing youth](#) and the existence of [Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children \(CSEC\)](#).



#### **Families/Parent(s) Experiencing Homelessness and in Need of Housing Assistance**

DCFS offers housing assistance to families and parents on the Family Maintenance Program through another program called [Bringing Families Home](#).

Families and parents on the Family Reunification Program also receive housing assistance through the [Family Reunification Housing Subsidy Program](#). These [CA State funded housing assistance programs](#) have existed from July 2016 to June 2019 in Los Angeles County and the funds have been renewed for July 2019 through June 2022. However, these housing assistance programs need to be included in the first contact with families and parents because families and parents are not informed about these services.

Also, because social workers have been known to arbitrarily decide if a parent does or does not need housing assistance, an independent housing navigator or specialist should conduct an assessment. The assessment, modeled after the [Coordinated Entry System](#) or the [Vulnerability Index-Family Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool \(VI-FSPDAT\)](#), will determine if the family or parent qualify for housing assistance; a judge should be required to refer a family or parent to Coordinated Entry System or VI-FSPADT services in DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court.

Furthermore, families and parents with children experiencing homelessness without a DCFS, Family Court, or Children's Court case need to have access to these housing services to prevent unnecessary and traumatizing family separations. An independent housing navigator or specialist should be provided to families and parents without a case in the aforementioned court systems as well. For example, in December 2019 a [protest](#) took place outside of the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court because of a mother's child who was placed in foster care because she became homeless.

### **Accountability**

All housing assistance services must be assessed by the FCD COC who will have the ability to hold DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court accountable if they do not follow through with assistance in a timely manner.

15. ***Create an independent civilian oversight committee over DCFS with subpoena power.*** There is no effective complaint process against social workers, their supervisors or their Area Regional Administrator (ARA). The processes that do exist are riddled with conflicts of interest because the complaints made against DCFS are returned to them for review and determination. Another example of the ineffective complaint process, the Dependency Investigator (DI) works in close proximity to the social workers and they socialize (i.e. go to lunch). These conflicts of interests lead to lack of accountability for social worker misconduct and allows for false reporting. The DFC COC may serve as the oversight.

16. ***Change and add the Family Reunification requirements in Children's Court and Family Court, respectively, to align with each other and other systems to create a Family Reunification requirement that is reasonably speedy, streamlined, and a non-duplicative reunification process.*** The Children's Court Family Reunification requirements are misaligned with other systems, too restrictive, and do not provide the adequate resources to parents to meet the requirements of reunifying the family. Family Court does not have a Family Reunification process and cases can drag out endlessly in court. Thus, both Children's Court and Family Court need to create a reasonably speedy, streamlined, and non-duplicative reunification process.

Another example of Children's Court misalignment with other systems is the social workers are not communicating with the therapists or instructors from parent's required classes. This lack of communication delays the parent's chances to reunify with their children. Therapists and instructors are not receiving case files from Children's Court, therefore the parent is unable to officially participate in the mandatory class and progress with their reunification process, misrepresenting the parent as noncompliant with the orders. Similarly, in Family Court, judges are baselessly not acknowledging certificates of completion for required classes.

An additional example of misalignment is that certificates earned in jail are not transferable and are not accepted once a parent is released from incarceration. Lastly, military veterans are taking classes with the VA, Veterans Family Wellness Center and U.S. Vets and those certificates are not acknowledged by Family Court or Children's Court.

17. ***Interview children in a safe space, away from the alleged abuser, and ensure their testimony remains confidential*** so as not to further risk harm to the child. The protocol to interview child victims in private is not being followed in Los Angeles County. For example, children are interviewed by DCFS and police officers in front of the alleged abuser, deviating from protocol.
18. ***Reports by civilian reporters, mandated reporters, domestic violence victims and others need to be reviewed exhaustively by an independent task force, that has no conflict of interest, composed of civilians with relevant lived experience and not immediately found unsubstantiated by a social worker or Family Court.*** A mandated reporter is a credible source legally responsible to report unlawful activity, therefore their reports must be given greater consideration when reviewed. However, some reports, especially those made by mandated reporters, are still being ignored by DCFS and Family Court. For example, in the Gabriel Fernandez case there were 13 reports by mandated reporters before he was killed.

19. ***The [Inter Agency of Child Abuse and Neglect \(ICAN\)](#) should not be obligated to return the cases the Agency reviews back to DCFS.*** The Agency is composed of different LA County government departments, including DCFS, and currently reviews DCFS cases (i.e. child-death cases and cases to prevent child deaths) but then returns the cases to DCFS which is a conflict of interest and gives the social worker room to retaliate or conceal misconduct. After the Agency reviews the case, the case should be sent to another entity determined by the DFC Implementation Team to eliminate a conflict of interest and mitigate retaliation and misconduct by social workers.

### **Los Angeles County Superior Court**

1. ***Make a Family Court Family Reunification plan mandatory with children separated from their biological families,*** if the parent does not have criminal charges or criminal convictions. There is no Family Reunification program nor timeline within the Family Court System. Furthermore, judges can keep delaying a case, continuing a case, or making their courtrooms dark on scheduled hearing dates, yet parents still have to pay legal and expert testimony fees. There are cases that have been in Family Court for 10 to 15 years with no criminal charges or convictions warranting the separations of biological families. There are families spending [\\$10,000 to \\$100,000](#) on cases and spiralling into financial ruin (i.e. debt and homelessness).
2. ***Create a local level Task Force with the legal bandwidth to investigate judges who are moved around multiple times in Family Court,*** as this complicates the record and, in some cases, covers up judicial misconduct and illegal activity. This local level Task Force needs to work in collaboration with the CA State level Task Force also investigating judicial misconduct.<sup>5</sup>
3. ***Stop creating court orders that limit or eliminate a parent's legal custody of their child, short of terminating their parental rights, if the parent does not have a criminal charge or conviction.*** If parental rights are still legally in place, then the parent should have legal custody of their children. Suspend making court orders granting parent A "sole custodial" without parent B's legal rights having been terminated. Often judges are giving "sole custodial" and "physical custodial" to parent A without parent B having criminal charges or convictions. This is an infringement on parent B's rights to their child; legal protections for parents should be adhered to. These court orders cause parent B to fall into technical legal traps and alienates them. The LA Superior Court needs to create

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<sup>5</sup> See CA State Senate and Assembly 12

every possible path to safe family reunification before closing cases with a final judgement in Family Court or exit order in Children's Court. Closing cases in favor of parent A without exhausting all paths to family reunification alienates parent B who still has parental rights and no criminal charges or convictions.

4. **Change the legal language of “sole custodial” parent and “noncustodial” parent to “primary custodial” parent and “secondary custodial” parent, respectively.** Non-legal experts (i.e. school principals, doctors, and recreational activity instructors) do not understand this legal jargon and read or hear “sole custodial” parent and falsely presume the “noncustodial” parent has no rights to the child. “Sole custodial” parents often leverage this misconception and claim that the “noncustodial” parent has no rights, managing to restrict the “noncustodial” parent’s access to the child (i.e. medical and school records), and at times, having the police wrongfully arrest the “noncustodial” parent.
5. **Create a Task Force composed of civilians with relevant lived experience to work with domestic violence victims and investigate domestic violence cases in Family Court and Children's Court.** There are several judges in Family Court and Children's Court who are ignoring evidence of domestic violence, denying restraining order requests, ignoring existing restraining orders, delaying cases by granting continuances and cancelling court dates.
6. **We demand full compliance with all the clauses, especially “cruel and unusual punishment,” of the eighth amendment of the U.S. Constitution.**
7. **Create a local Task Force to investigate Children’s Court cases that do not have JV-190 forms signed, which waives the parents or guardians rights.** Children’s Court is violating parent’s and guardian’s rights by not reviewing the JV-190 form in Court with the parent and guardian or obtaining a legal signature on the JV-190 form, denying parents and guardians due process. DCFS and Children's Court are taking children away illegally without due process and without parents signing a JV-190 form, knowing “A parent's interest in custody of her children is a liberty interest which has received considerable constitutional protection; a parent who is deprived of custody of his or her child, even though temporarily, suffers thereby grievous loss and such loss deserves extensive due process protection.” *In the Interest of Cooper*, 621 P 2d 437; 5 Kansas App Div 2d 584, (1980). Work in collaboration with CA State Task Force that will also investigate Children’s Court cases that do not have a signed JV-190 form.<sup>6</sup>

**California State Auditor**

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<sup>6</sup> See CA State Senate and Assembly 5

1. ***Request an Audit of the [Child Abduction Unit](#).*** Children have been removed from safe, protective parents by this Child Abduction Unit without being notified. Some of these children have disabilities and are taken from homes without securing their medication. Some children are removed from one state and taken to another without contacting the “alleged child abductor,” in other words the parent that has been the primary caregiver. Some of these parents have existing protective or restraining orders against the other parent. The complaint process for this Unit is a conflict of interest because it is internal. An Office of Inspector General needs to be instituted to impartially review complaints made against the Unit.<sup>7</sup>
2. ***Audit the restraining order/protective order requests that were delayed, denied, revoked or altered without victim consent in Family Court and Children’s Court.*** There are restraining orders/protective orders being ignored and not honored in court, endangering families and children. In cases where a clear conflict of interest exists, an independent investigative team should conduct the audit.
3. ***Institutionalize a database that allows community members to self-report*** their restraining orders/protective orders that have been denied, revoked, or altered. An independent team will collect, monitor, and respond to these self-reports.
4. ***If the audit confirms that a past (past 15 years, 2005-2020) or present protective order was wrongfully denied, revoked, or altered, then the entire casefile needs to be reviewed.***
5. ***Audit the amount of money that has been generated from adoptions by*** adoption agencies, DCFS, lawyers, adoptive parents, and other relevant parties and how the profits are distributed among the relevant parties. Make the aforementioned data available to the public.
6. ***Audit and investigate the Los Angeles Mayor’s Challenge to Decrease Veteran Suicide.*** According the LA Times, the veteran [national suicide rate is approxiametly 22 people per day](#) and has not decreased.

#### **Los Angeles County District Attorney**

1. ***Create a Task Force to investigate the [Child Abduction Unit](#).*** Children have been removed from safe, protective parents by this Child Abduction Unit without being notified. Some of these children have disabilities and are taken from

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<sup>7</sup> See CA State Senate and Assembly 10

homes without securing their medication. Some children are removed from one state and taken to another without contacting the “alleged child abductor,” in other words the parent that has been the primary caregiver. Some of these parents have existing protective or restraining orders against the other parent. The complaint process for this Unit is a conflict of interest because it is internal. An Office of Inspector General needs to be instituted to impartially review complaints made against the Unit.<sup>8</sup>

2. **Create a Task Force for military veterans** to investigate cases of families that have been separated and the parents do not have criminal charges. This Task Force will work collaboratively with its State Task Force counterpart and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.<sup>9</sup>

#### Los Angeles County Child Support Services

1. **Adjust the Guideline Calculator for child support costs so both parents can take care of their child and meet their living expenses.** The [existing debt reduction options](#) are limited and insufficient. Better payment options need to be offered that consider living expenses, not just income. The [Guideline Calculator](#) does not take into account expenses such as the cost of rent, car payment, and attorney fees. In a city like Los Angeles, the [average cost of rent is \\$2,200 per month](#). The [average monthly cost of car expenses in Los Angeles is \\$706](#). These bare minimum living expenses amount to \$2,906 per month. Using the Guideline Calculator with the example of one child dependent, a pre-tax monthly income of \$3,000 for each parent, and no other expenses, would generate \$424 in monthly child support costs for Parent 1. This sums to \$3,330, exceeding Parent 1’s monthly income by \$330 and plunging them into debt. Furthermore, if Parent 2 is not working, the monthly child support costs for Parent 1 would be \$593, summing to \$3,499 and exceeding Parent 1’s income by \$499. This calculation is conservative given that it only takes rent and car expenses into consideration.

#### CA Private Schools

1. **Make it clear that noncustodial parents (secondary custodial parents) do have rights to access records including, but not limited to, medical, dental, and school records under the CA Department of Education State Regulations for private schools** without signature requirement from or notification to custodial/primary custodial parent. Rights should be aligned with the [legal language](#) covering CA public schools.

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<sup>8</sup> See CA State Senate and Assembly 10; See CA State Auditor 1

<sup>9</sup> See Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 1(d); See CA State Senate and Assembly 11

2. ***Notify the noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent) before their child is transferred to another school.***
3. ***Notify both the custodial parent (primary custodial parent) and noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent) of incident reports automatically.***
4. ***List both the custodial parent (primary custodial parent) and noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent) addresses as “primary contact”*** because both should be receiving information regarding their child. A “secondary contact” should be treated as an emergency contact, not the noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent) who has legal rights to their child’s records.
5. ***Hire full-time on-campus contracted social workers*** with a ratio of one social worker per 30 students that works with all families, especially those with a Family Court, Children’s Court, or DCFS case to facilitate family team building. Social workers will assess how many students have DCFS, Family Court, and Children’s Court cases to provide services.

#### **Los Angeles Unified School District/CA Public Schools**

1. ***Make it clear that noncustodial parents (secondary custodial parents) do have rights to access records including, but not limited to, medical, dental, and school records under the CA Department of Education State Regulations for private schools*** without signature requirement from or notification to custodial/primary custodial parent. Rights should be aligned with the [legal language](#) covering CA public schools.
2. ***Notify the noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent) before their child is transferred to another school.***
3. ***Notify both the custodial parent (primary custodial parent) and noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent) of incident reports automatically.***
4. ***List both the custodial parent (primary custodial parent) and noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent) addresses as “primary contact”*** because both should be receiving information regarding their child. A “secondary contact” should be treated as an emergency contact, not the noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent) who has legal rights to their child’s records.



5. **Public schools should familiarize themselves with the rights of custodial parent (primary custodial parent) and noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent)** so that they do not involve law enforcement unnecessarily.<sup>10</sup>
6. **Use a centralized database with all updated court records involving families with a DCFS, Family Court, or Children's Court case.** For example, Parent A could use a defunct custody order against Parent B to take the child, outside the parameters of the custody order, or have Parent B falsely arrested.<sup>11</sup>
7. **Public schools should flag the child's record if there is an existing DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court case to the CA Department of Education.** For example, the custodial parent (primary custodial parent) could move their child to multiple schools without notifying the noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent). With the CA Department of Education tracking students who are involved in court cases, activity such as exorbitant school transfers can be detected. The noncustodial parent (secondary custodial parent), who still has legal rights of the child, including educational and medical records, can therefore be notified.
8. **Hire full-time on-campus contracted social workers** with a ratio of one social worker per 30 students that works with all families, especially those with a Family Court, Children's Court, or DCFS case to facilitate family team building. Specifically, LAUSD with can use the \$25 million from the [35% Los Angeles School Police Department budget reduction](#) to fund social workers. Social workers will assess how many students have DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court cases to provide services.

## Department of Mental Health

As LACDMH advances its mission, we know it is entirely committed to playing a key role as partner and contributor to the County's broader vision for addressing critical challenges and helping communities thrive. To this end, LACDMH has aligned the goals of its plan with the County's Strategic Plan to ensure a cohesive response. Our demand letter should be included in the goals and strategic plan to address issues specifically involving domestic violence, intimate partner violence, substance abuse, race as a social determinant of health/impacts health.

## Conclusion

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<sup>10</sup> Los Angeles Superior Court 4

<sup>11</sup> Los Angeles Superior Court 4

DCFS, Family Court, and Children's Court need to be reimagined because we cannot wait for another child to die. We cannot wait for more children to be severely traumatized and develop ACEs. We cannot wait for more children to enter the pipeline to juvenile halls, jails and prison before making the decision to act. We are calling on the **Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, CA State Senate and Assembly, Judicial Council, DCFS, Los Angeles Superior Court, CA State Auditor, Los Angeles County District Attorney, Los Angeles County Child Support Services, CA Private Schools, LAUSD/CA Department of Education, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles City Mayor, and the Police Commission** to act immediately. [A Trauma Informed System of Care](#) is what is needed to stop separating children from **biological families within our borders**. A Trauma Informed System of Care would also prevent severing one biological parent from the child when the child has both biological parents. We will support you in taking the daring but necessary action to protect the most valuable people in our community, our children. This must happen and must happen now!

Sincerely,

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Keisha Dixon  
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[Patricia@cocosouthia.org](mailto:Patricia@cocosouthia.org)



March 25, 2021

Kathryn Barger/ Kathryn Barger 5th district staff

Los Angeles County first-fifth district supervisors/ Kathryn Barger/ Kathryn Barger fifth district staff

I just wanted to pass on feedback on Access La County to also Los Angeles County for elderly, disabled individuals and income qualified. As you know Access La County is next day reservations we need same day Lyft HQ wants to work with you guys for essential rides and it would be nice if you helped the people you know same day at least give it a try five-10 rides a month not four rides if someone use all La cab for New Freedom dial a ride late issues have need dental treatment that moment need supplement even they come late Lyft on time its essential for disabled La County then 25 rides 5th district future this is concerning we need to make sure we get to dental appointments and medical appointments urgent care of needed as well as social service appointments. I had Covina it was a urgent dental appointment need same day Access no have I called guess what transferred me supervisor and I there three hours until my family available take me with intellectual disability brother its tough they watch 24/7 care for him. As you know in Youtube Access transit come late I do fear that we need essential places on time no two hours waiting around. I like that freedom getting around see where La County has a issue 5th district all this in record we need to make sure essential what if we need urgent care yeah you may say contact insurance need five day notice hard to reach insurance people from other states call for transport even got scheduled ride see where La County can help the people our voices need to be heard do a Lyft partnership. Yeah dial a ride only San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Glendora, Claremont see the issue no Covina Covina had specialist for dental need no one should have to go through this especially Covid and even after Covid ends. I hope as a transportation deputy you look more closely on certain issues. Movie theaters restaurant sure can wait do that holidays but make sure someone make sure we get to medical appointments on time as well as grocery stores. I tried Pomona but cant do dental work only Covina. Have eight rides 60 miles then 10 rides 75\* miles La county ride yellow a month what if need Los Angeles medical could happen please think about this Los Angeles County district supervisors or Lyft Lyft has Lyftup program grants \$3 rides 50 miles total a month or 10 rides or free fare work something like that what you have if had car need car part on time arrival. As well for housing students make sure during Covid more programs have our voices heard having the Lyft you help drivers in need as well not people for transport please think about this Los Angeles County supervisors.

<https://www.lyft.com/lyftup/programs>

<https://www.lyftbusiness.com/>

<https://www.uber.com/us/en/business/>

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Hey there, Pat!

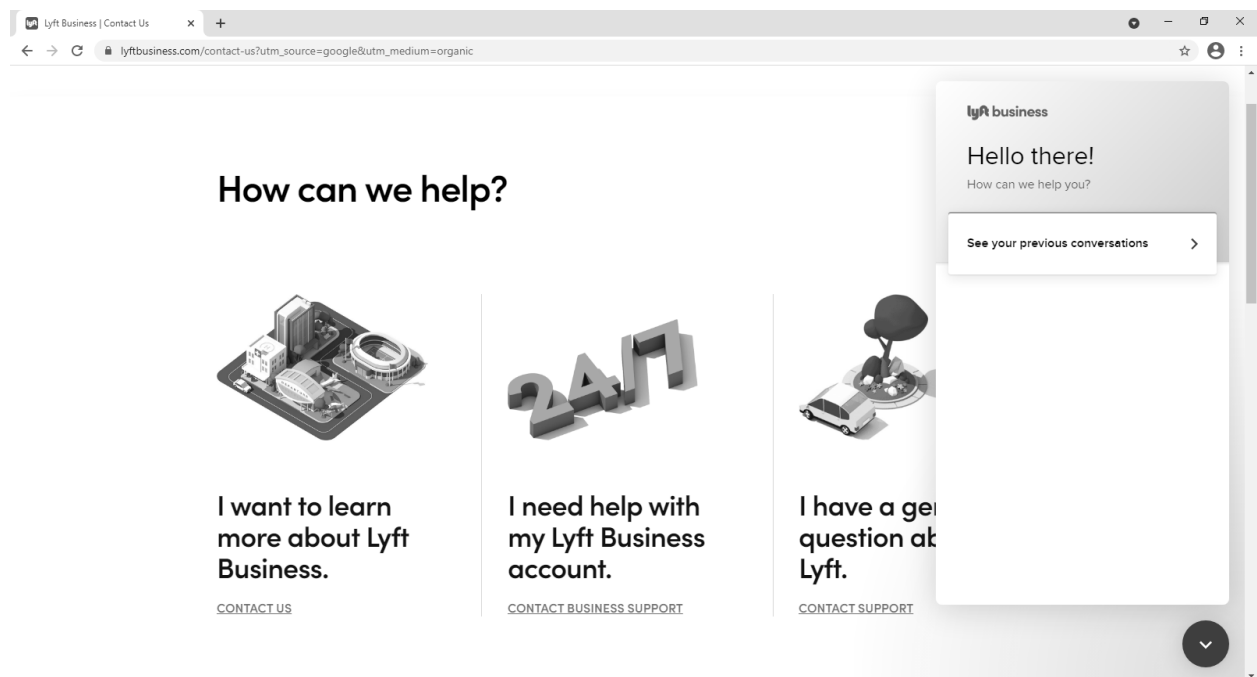
Thanks for your message! I'm Michael from Lyft HQ, and I'm happy to provide some additional information. I completely understand the importance of an affordable ride, and I appreciate you bringing this to our attention.

Lyft Support isn't able to review partnership requests, but you can make a request at [lft.to/Partnership](https://lft.to/Partnership).

Our partnerships team will review your request and contact you if it's a good fit.

Best,

Michael  
Lyft Support  
Help.lyft.com



Partnership contact them on Intercom chat Lyft  
[https://www.lyftbusiness.com/contact-us?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=organic](https://www.lyftbusiness.com/contact-us?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic)

Sincerely,

-Pat Tubbs

*Pat Tubbs*

5th district La County resident and Lyft Access rider